

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3 to 9 have been cancelled, claims 10 to 16 are newly added, and claim 1 is amended as described in further detail.

Amended claim 1 specifies shoes including a plurality of strap attachment loops to which straps terminating in safety pin attachment structures are detachably secured, with support in subject matter deleted from claim 2, and in the drawing (see Fig. 1B for example). New main claim 10 is similarly supported but directed to a footwear assembly.

For support for dependent claim 2 and new main claim 16, reference is made to the 4th and 5th paragraphs of page 10 (see, for instance, the language "...wearing shoes that are coordinated, but are not the same. In a world where fashion styles come and go...."). For example, the shoe straps may have coordinated, yet different, patterns. Support for a footwear assembly that includes shoe bases of different styles (main claim 10) is also found in the 4th paragraph of page 10, or of different fit (main claim 10) is found in the last sentence of the Abstract. Support for claim 11 is found on page 5 in the description of reference numerals 10H, 10M, 10P and 10L. Support for claim 12 is found on page 5 in the description of reference numerals 20, 22 and 24. Support for claims 13 to 15 is also found in the 4th paragraph of page 10.

In reply to the rejection of original claims 2-5 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, these claims are deleted except for amended claim 2, which no longer includes the language under rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

In reply to the rejections of claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 USC 102(b) over GB 420, and of claims 1, 6 and 9 under 35 USC 102(b) over Jneid, and of claims 1-2 and 6-8 under 35 USC 102(b) over Smith, none of this prior art is believed to describe or suggest shoes (amended claim 1) or a footwear assembly (new main claim 10) that includes strap attachment loops to which shoe

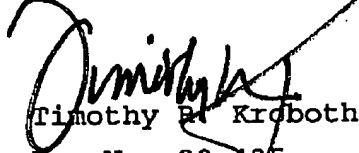
straps terminating in safety pin attachment structures are detachably secured.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) over GB 420 in view of Phillips, these claims are cancelled.

It is believed that prior art made of record by the Examiner, does not describe or suggest the subject matter of main claims 1, 10 or 16 as presented. In addition, attention is invited to dependent claims 2 and 11-15, which specify newly claimed subject matter.

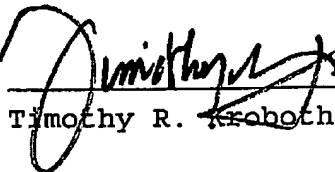
In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of all rejections and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should any minor matter remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Timothy R. Kroboth
Reg.No. 28,435
(704) 846-3105

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 13, 2006.


Timothy R. Kroboth

Date: April 13, 2006